

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 5-12 and 15-19 remain active in this application, Claims 5, 6, 8, 15, 16 and 18 having been amended and Claims 1-4 and 13 and 14 canceled by the present Amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action Claims 1-4, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Herzer et al (U.S. Patent 6,072,214), Claims 5-10 and 15-19 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but otherwise allowable if rewritten in independent form, and Claims 11 and 12 were allowable over the prior art of record.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of Claims 11 and 12 and the indication that Claims 5-10 and 15-19 include allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, and in order to expedite issuance of a patent from the present application, Claims 5, 6, 8, 15, 16 and 18 have been amended to be in independent form, and Claims 1-4 and 13-14 have been canceled subject to Applicant's right to file a divisional application directed thereto.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion and present amendment, no further

issues are outstanding, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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